

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

STEPHEN JAMES LATTIN,

Petitioner,

v.

GENA JONES,

Respondent.

Case No. 2:23-cv-02916-JDP (HC)

ORDER

THE CLERK OF COURT IS DIRECTED TO
RANDOMLY ASSIGN A DISTRICT JUDGE
TO THIS MATTER

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT THIS MATTER BE DISMISSED FOR
FAILURE TO PROSECUTE AND TO
COMPLY WITH COURT ORDERS

OBJECTIONS DUE WITHIN FOURTEEN
DAYS

On May 14, 2024, I screened the petition and found that it failed to state a claim. I granted petitioner thirty days to file an amended petition. ECF No. 10. Petitioner failed to timely file an amended petition or otherwise to respond to the court order. Therefore, on July 12, 2024, I ordered petitioner to show cause why this action should not be dismissed for his failure to prosecute and failure to comply with court orders. ECF No. 11. Petitioner has not responded to the order to show cause, and the time to do so has passed. Accordingly, dismissal of the action is warranted.

The court has the inherent power to control its docket and may, in the exercise of that power, impose sanctions where appropriate, including dismissal. *Bautista v. Los Angeles Cnty.*,

1 216 F.3d 837, 841 (9th Cir. 2000); *see* Local Rule 110 (“Failure of counsel or of a party to
2 comply with these Rules or with any order of the Court may be grounds for imposition by the
3 Court of any and all sanctions . . . within the inherent power of the Court.”).

4 A court may dismiss an action based on a party’s failure to prosecute an action, failure to
5 obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. *See Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54
6 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258,
7 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order to file an amended
8 complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to
9 comply with local rule requiring pro se plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v.*
10 *U.S. Postal Serv.*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court
11 order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of
12 prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

13 In recommending that this action be dismissed for failure to comply with court orders, I
14 have considered “(1) the public’s interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s
15 need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy
16 favoring disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.”
17 *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61 (citation omitted).

18 Here, petitioner has failed to respond to two court orders directing him to file an amended
19 petition. *See* ECF Nos. 10 & 11. Therefore, the public interest in expeditious resolution of
20 litigation, the court’s need to manage its docket, and the risk of prejudice to the respondent all
21 support imposition of the sanction of dismissal. Lastly, my warning to petitioner that failure to
22 obey court orders will result in dismissal satisfies the “considerations of the alternatives”
23 requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1424.
24 Specifically, the July 12 order expressly warned petitioner that his failure to comply with court
25 orders would result in dismissal. ECF No. 11. Petitioner had adequate warning that dismissal
26 could result from his noncompliance. Accordingly, I find that the balance of factors weighs in
27 favor of dismissal.

28 Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that the Clerk of Court randomly assign a district

1 judge to this matter.

2 Further, it is hereby RECOMMENDED that:

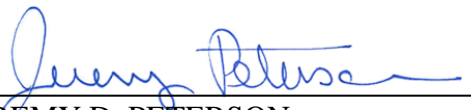
3 1. This action be dismissed without prejudice for failure to prosecute and failure to
4 comply with court orders for the reasons set forth in the July 12, 2024 order.

5 2. The Clerk of Court be directed to close the case.

6 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge
7 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days of
8 service of these findings and recommendations, any party may file written objections with the
9 court and serve a copy on all parties. Any such document should be captioned "Objections to
10 Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations," and any response shall be served and filed
11 within fourteen days of service of the objections. The parties are advised that failure to file
12 objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. *See*
13 *Turner v. Duncan*, 158 F.3d 449, 455 (9th Cir. 1998); *Martinez v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir.
14 1991).

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16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 Dated: August 12, 2024

18 
19 JEREMY D. PETERSON
20 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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